

Ashok Joshi



After beginning his life and education overseas, Dr. Joshi received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and quickly went on to establish himself as a leading researcher in several prominent companies such as Ray-O-Vac. His entrepreneurial spirit then moved him to return to his native India and found the first button cell battery development and manufacturing company in that country, where his accomplishments would earn him the first National Small Business Entrepreneurial Award given by the President of India. Then, twenty years ago, Dr. Joshi returned to America and joined Ceramtec, Inc., a spinout company from the University of Utah here in Salt Lake City - establishing the Cerion business division that subsequently developed and marketed the company's first commercial products, including oxygen analyzers and sensors that are still sold throughout the world.

As the author of over 70 patents in the company's portfolio, Ashok has always been a key member of the technical team at Ceramtec, but his boundless energy and leadership abilities also caused him to rise in time to the position of President and CEO. He finally acquired the company in a management buyout late in 1999, and has doubled the workforce in the time since. In one letter of support, the CTO of a Fortune 500 firm stated that today Ceramtec is known worldwide as a leader in the development of ionic technologies and devices such as solid oxide fuel cells. Indeed, Dr. Joshi's recent invitations to be the keynote speaker at annual meetings of the International Society for Solid State Ionics in Australia and Greece underscore the worldwide recognition and reputation that he and his company have earned.